



Miss Dorothea Bumstead in post office

## Post office will end 89 years of service

With the close of business Tuesday, the East Linton Post office will end service after 89 years of operation. A total of 84 homes will have their addresses changed to R.R. 2,

Kemble and receive mail through that office.

Miss Dorothea Bumstead, who operates Larter's Grocery, has been postmistress for the past seven years. She succeeded her uncle, Percy Larter, who was postmaster for 28 years.

The East Linton office first opened on June 1, 1881 in a log cabin about half a mile north of its present location. The first postmaster was William Cowe who held the appointment for only five months.

In 1906 George Saunders became postmaster and the office was moved to his home. When Percy Larter took over in 1935, the office was moved for the last time into the present store which Joshua Larter, his father, had purchased in 1911.

As she prepared to shut down the office, Miss Bumstead was still a little puzzled. It seemed strange, she said, to close the post office at a time when East Linton is showing signs of growth. She noted that during the past five years the number of homes in the area has increased and there is every sign this trend will continue.

But on Tuesday East Linton will join the hundreds of small communities across Canada which have lost post offices in the current re-organization of the postal department.



SELL STORE—Mr. and Mrs. Ray West Owen Sound. They operated the store have sold their general store at Big Bay and a post office for 23 years and are retiring to a farm at R.R. 7. 1970 (Sun-Times Photo)

## Couple finishes 23 years of business at Big Bay

Ray and Blanche West spent last Saturday saying hello and goodbye to their customers for the last time. Mr. and Mrs. West operated a general store and post office at Big Bay for the past 23 years and Saturday was the last business day for them.

Retirement was something Mr. West looked forward to until he was faced with it. "I am really going to miss a lot of nice people," he said.

"In 23 years you come to know a lot of people." The West store and home was the centre of a lot of card games, cups of tea and "gab fests".

Although the store will, re-open under new owners the

post office will remain closed. "A lot of tourists are upset about the loss of mail service here," Mr. West stated. Mr. West also had a mail route covering East Linton, Kemble and North Keppel. The loss of service will affect about 40 subscribers and 100 tourists.

Postal service had been provided to the area since 1862. "The first delivery was by a man who walked once a week from Owen Sound to Oxendon and took a boat to Colpoys Bay," recalled Mr. West. The service became daily about 1900.

The post office was in various homes until Mr. and Mrs. West took it over in 1946 in their store.

"In spite of the weather and roads I only missed delivering the mail a couple of days in all those years", Mr. West said.

Mr. West was born in Kemble and Mrs. West is from Parkhead.

After serving in the First World War, Mrs. West sailed for 10 seasons on the Great Lakes as an oiler and fireman. After their marriage in 1941, the couple lived in Toronto for seven years before coming to Big Bay.

The store was robbed once, about 10 years ago by two men. "One man held me and the other took the money, but they were caught the next day," said Mrs. West.

Over the years they "helped many victims of the stormy weather". The store was the focal point of the community," the couple said.

"At one time everything came in by boat. There was a grain elevator, sawmill and grist mill. But, they are all gone now," Mr. West said. "We still have boy scout camp here," he added. The recently constructed government boat launching dock "attracts a number of tourists."

### SARAWAK SUNDAY SCHOOL



Date - June 7 1970  
Place - Sarawak United Church  
Time - 1:30 Ladies Please bring lunch  
Photographer from O.S. coming at 12:30